

FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA

OVERVIEW

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is an association of high school students studying business or business-related careers. Members belong to local, state, and national FBLA chapters. Membership is unified on these levels and is not available separately. The following goals have been adopted:

1. Develop competent, aggressive business leadership.
2. Strengthen the confidence of students in themselves and their work.
3. Create more interest in and understanding of American business enterprise.
4. Encourage members in the development of individual projects which contribute to the improvement of home, business, and community.
5. Develop character, prepare for useful citizenship, and foster patriotism.
6. Encourage and practice efficient money management.
7. Encourage scholarship and promote school loyalty.
8. Assist students in the establishment of occupational goals.
9. Facilitate the transition from school to work.

STRUCTURE

The national organization encompasses local and state chapters at the secondary and postsecondary levels. FBLA elects their own student national officers at the annual National Leadership Conference. The association is governed by a Board of Directors composed of professional educators, local and state advisers, state supervisors, business and industry representatives, and national student officers. The president and chief executive officer of the association, appointed by the Board of Directors, directs a national staff located in Reston, Virginia.

The national organization is composed of five geographic regions to facilitate leadership activities. The five regions are Western, Mountain Plains, North Central, Eastern, and Southern.

The Missouri Chapter is composed of active local chapters whose members have paid dues and support the goals of the organization. The state chapter is organized into 20 districts for the purpose of establishing representation in the state leadership conference competitive events and determining membership on the state executive council.

The general administration of the state chapter is vested in the Executive Council and the Board of Directors. The FBLA Executive Council is composed of the six state officers and a representative from each of the districts. The governing body of the state chapter is the Board of Directors which consists of the advisers of the six state officers, the state chair of FBLA-PBL, and the FBLA state adviser.

MEMBERSHIP

FBLA is made up of four (4) membership divisions. These include:

FBLA-Middle Level. Membership in this division is open to students in grades 5-9 who are seeking career exploration opportunities and who accept the purpose of FBLA, subscribe to its creed, and demonstrate willingness to contribute to meaningful school-community relations.

FBLA. Membership in this division is open to students in grades 9-12, enrolled or previously enrolled in a business or business-related course, who accept the purpose of FBLA, subscribe to its creed, demonstrate willingness to contribute to meaningful school-community relations, and possess qualities for employment.

PBL. Membership is open to postsecondary students, pursuing degrees in a business or business-related field, who accept the purpose of PBL, subscribe to its creed, and possess qualities for employment.

Professional Division. Professional membership is open to all individuals interested in promoting the goals established by the association. Such members may include former members, employers, educators, parents, businesspersons, community leaders, and any other persons contributing to the growth and development of the association and its members.

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS AND ADVISERS

Students benefit in the following ways:

1. Learn skills critical to success in business
2. Develop self-confidence and a positive attitude
3. Learn first-hand from business leaders
4. Develop problem-solving and decision-making competencies
5. Gain recognition for accomplishments in business competitions
6. Increase employability skills
7. Prepare for community living as a responsible citizen

Advisers will realize the following benefits:

1. Enrich classroom teaching and motivating students to learn
2. Publicize the business education program to parents, administrators, and community
3. Attract new students into the business education program
4. Establish rapport with students
5. Develop leaders who can be of assistance in the classroom
6. Create linkages with business/industry leaders
7. Expand professional experience

STARTING A CHAPTER

The early stages of development are critical for the success of any FBLA chapter, setting the tone for future activities and the active participation of businesses in the community.

1. Request an application to apply for a charter from the state office. It includes:
2. Submit a proposal to administration for approval of the chapter.
3. Have a membership drive.
4. Hold a chapter orientation meeting.
5. Establish guidelines for officer elections.
6. Vote on bylaws.
7. Elect officers.
8. Complete the application for chapter charter and submit it to the national chair.
9. Develop first year's program of work.

ADVISER SUPPORT

In order to make student organization activities an integral part of the business curriculum, business educators should be able to:

1. develop a statement of philosophy and goals for student organizations as an integral part of the business education program;
2. promote the business education program by effectively utilizing student organizations for recruitment, visibility, and positive image building;
3. provide a learning environment supportive of self management and responsibility for the development of leadership skills;
4. facilitate student participation in district, state, regional, and national activities as a means of developing appropriate leadership and social skills;
5. provide students with opportunities to learn and practice interpersonal communication skills necessary to be effective members of society;
6. prepare eligible students for holding offices in the organization so that they can experience the privileges and obligations that are implicit in the role;
7. provide career guidance for students who wish to pursue careers in business or related occupations; and
8. encourage and assist students to participate in competitive event activities as a means of enhancing occupational skill development.

AWARDS PROGRAM

The Awards Program provides chapter advisers with motivational tools for student and chapter achievement. The program reflects important aspects of the American educational system-competition and recognition of excellence. Culminating at the

National Leadership Conference each year, the program demonstrates the broad range of activities and focus of FBLA; many events are based on projects developed from the goals of FBLA.

Events fall into three categories: chapter, team, and individual. Chapter awards recognize overall achievement and performance in chapter management and growth; individual and team events focus on specific skills useful in leadership and career development. All events foster a spirit of competition and teamwork.

The Awards Program includes written reports, interviews, and written tests to measure and judge performance on the local, district, and state levels before culminating at the National Leadership Conference. Some of the competitive events available are accounting, business law, business communications, public speaking, job interview, parliamentary procedure, computer applications, international business, and desktop publishing.

FBLA RESOURCES

FBLA audio visual and print resources are available free on a loan basis from the

Missouri Center for Career Education (MCCE)
Central Missouri State University
T.R. Gaines #306
Warrensburg, MO 64093
(800) 392-7217
<http://resources.mcce.org/>

FBLA National Office:

FBLA-PBL, Inc.
1912 Association Drive
Reston, VA 20191-1591
(800) 325-2946
<http://www.fbla-pbl.org>

Missouri FBLA State Office:

State FBLA Adviser
P.O. Box 480 (205 Jefferson Street)
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-3926
<http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered/fbla.htm>

SAMPLE FBLA PROGRAM OF WORK

SEPTEMBER

- Recruit new members
- Recruit new chapters
- Attend district fall planning meeting
- Induct new members and install officers
- Attend statewide fall activity (Game Day, Funtastic Day)
- Plan for Chapter and Individual Business Achievement Awards
- Select a service project
- Register for National Fall Leadership Conference
- Plan four leadership workshops for the year

OCTOBER

- Plan Fall FBLA picnic
- Submit article for Missouri Business Leader
- Submit article for Tomorrow's Business Leader
- Register membership online, mail state and national dues to the national office before Oct. 20
- Participate in Make A Difference Day
- Plan service project
- Select and schedule leadership workshop presenters

NOVEMBER

- Invite guest speaker from business community
- Attend National Fall Leadership Conference
- Celebrate American Enterprise Day
- Make plans for February FBLA Week
- Obtain media coverage of service project
- Carry out service project
- Conduct first leadership workshop

DECEMBER

- Submit an article for March/April issue of TBL
- Plan Christmas Activity
- Evaluate service project
- Plan annual fundraiser(s)
- Encourage members to run for district, state and national office

JANUARY

- Publicize and implement fundraiser
- Invite new members and parents to potluck dinner meeting
- Plan field trip(s) to local businesses to promote career awareness
- Finalize FBLA Week plans and publicity
- Make SLC hotel reservations
- Promote participation in competitive events program
- Conduct second leadership workshop

FEBRUARY

Plan campaigns for officer candidates
Observe FBLA Week
Submit article for Missouri Business Leader
Register additional members online and mail dues by Feb. 15 to the national office
Conduct third leadership workshop
Hold local competition to determine district competitive event participants
Prepare for district competition (DLC)
Attend DLC

MARCH

Attend DLC
Mail SLC entry forms and conference registration form
Finalize SLC lodging plans
Conduct fundraiser for SLC travel expenses
Invite former FBLA members back to speak
File state officer application before March 15
File Chapter and Individual Business Achievement forms before April 1
Contribute to state NLC travel fund

APRIL

Conduct fourth leadership workshop
Prepare for SLC competition
Attend SLC
Publicize SLC participation
Make NLC hotel reservations

MAY

Mail anticipated attendance form to state office
Register online for NLC and send fee to national office
Mail registration for summer executive council meeting and officer training
Plan end-of-year activity

JUNE

Conduct fundraiser for NLC travel expenses
Contact local businesses for donations toward NLC travel expenses
Prepare for national competition
Attend NLC

JULY

Attend NLC

AUGUST

Attend summer executive council meeting and officer training
Plan local Program of Work for new school year

DLC = District Leadership Conference
SLC = State Leadership Conference
NLC = National Leadership Conference

STATE FBLA-PBL ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

